



Laughlin master sergeant takes second job as hero

By Airman Timothy Stein
Staff writer

A Laughlin firefighter, while volunteering for the Val Verde County Fire Department, recently was involved in a couple of situations where his training helped save the lives of two people.

Master Sgt. Michael Sweet, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron hazardous material and safety officer, has been a volunteer for the county fire department for two and a half years.

The first of the incidents happened on May 16.

Sweet, who was named



Sweet

Val Verde County Fire Department Volunteer of 2001, was at the Val Verde fire station when the station received a call at around 4:30 a.m. concerning an accident six miles west of Comstock.

The accident involved two 18-wheelers that collided on Highway 90 West.

Sweet was part of the team that used hydraulic rescue equipment to cut one of the trucks open to get the driver out. Once the driver was removed, Sweet assisted in stabilizing and treating him. Sweet also helped to transfer the victim to the Life Flight helicopter when it arrived. Both drivers were airlifted to San Antonio.

Jerry Rust, Val Verde County fire chief, said the victims were in very serious condition, and the efforts of the firefighters saved their lives.

The second incident

See 'Hero,' page 4



Photo by Dave Niebergall

Three-star visit

(Right) Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper, Air Education and Training Command Vice Commander, and Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander, stand in front of Anderson Hall following the June 7 graduation of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 02-10. The general was the graduation guest speaker.

Laughlin, Del Rio communities to celebrate Juneteenth

By Senior Airman Brad Pettit
Editor

People from the Laughlin and local communities are invited to take part in a variety of festivities at the annual Juneteenth celebration in Del Rio Saturday.

Juneteenth, named an official Texas holiday in 1980, is a celebration linked to the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln's executive order setting American slaves free.

Though the proclamation became effective Jan. 1, 1863, word of it didn't reach Texas until June 19, 1865, when Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger and Union troops landed at Galveston and announced that the Civil War was over and that black men and women were no longer to be held in bondage.

A parade will kick off the downtown celebration at 10 a.m. Saturday at the corner of Academy and Main streets, turning right at the railroad station, and proceeding down Ogden

Street to Moore Park. There will be a barbecue with many trimmings, display booths, and music by Step Rideau, a New Orleans, La., Cajun band. Other local acts will also be performing.

Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander; Dora Alcalá, Del Rio mayor; and Roberto Canseco, Mexican consulate; will be among the guest speakers for the event. Brenda McCain, former Civilian Personnel Flight chief at Laughlin,

and currently Civilian Personnel chief at Brooks Air Force Base, will also be a guest speaker.

While the holiday is founded on the granting of freedom to African Americans, Jordan stressed that the celebration is not limited to any particular ethnic group.

"Freedom is what the celebration is about," said Joni Jordan, Juneteenth Celebration Committee

See 'Parade,' page 4



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Col. Kenneth DesRosier, 47th Medical Group Commander, says farewell to Laughlin.

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Laughlin's assistant staff judge advocate warns people not to be fooled by hoax vacation scams.

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Mission status:

(As of June 4)
Days ahead (+) or behind (-)
T-37 +.4
T-1 -1.1
T-38 -1.38



Commanders' Corner

By Col. Kenneth DesRosier
47th Medical Group Commander

Farewell Laughlin, you will be missed

Well, the time has come to say farewell, and the Border Eagle staff has graciously allowed me the opportunity. I've been amused by prior articles in this space, sometimes inspired and occasionally in awe of the talent that shows itself in this corner. I offer none of those today for the discerning reader, just a few genuine feelings and lots of gratitude.

First, thanks to the leaders of the 47th Flying Training Wing for being such great partners and friends. It's true that the absence of a numbered Air Force, MAJCOM or other major tenant allows us to focus very effectively on our mission with few distractions. Yet, I believe one of the blessings in working at this wing has been the great spirit of mutual respect and support that characterizes our wing, group and squadron leadership. I have never felt such ease in bringing medical group issues and

problems to the attention of those with the power to help, nor felt such warm support from every direction as I have here at Laughlin. I've also learned much from observing your example, and know that you have all had a hand in preparing me for success in my next command.

Pilots, you're what we're all about. I'm proud to be a part of your mission as a flight surgeon. Our job should always be to keep you in the cockpit and in the game.

I've flown with every squadron this past year, and still can't believe I'm so lucky. You have all and always lived up to my expectations of true professionals. Thanks for the many moments I'll cherish.

Non-pilots, you're also what we're all about. If the pilots are the "tip of the spear" then who's the shaft? I think throwing arrowheads at the enemy is much more effective when there's a shaft attached to

them, how about you? But you all know that, because you've been so great at supporting this wing's mission. For showing me how effective a wing can be when the support from all is so single-minded and tenacious, my thanks.

Medical folks, I can't tell you with only few words how much you mean to me. I've been incredibly fortunate to work with you for the past two years. I hope that my leadership has influenced you to stay in the Air Force ('cause we need you), or has stimulated you to question and improve the status quo, or touched you in some other way that is good. Even if all that's true, know that I have taken more than I've given, and any future success will not be my own, but ours together.

Men and women of Laughlin, I'm only leaving a job that has kept me among you and no longer will. But I'm still in the family! Come see me some time!

Top Three Talk

By Master Sgt. Prince Smith

47th Security Forces Squadron training and resources superintendent



Senior NCO Induction is sight to behold

Every summer Laughlin holds its annual Senior Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony.

The purpose of this ceremony is to provide formal recognition for promotion to the grade of master sergeant. This is a significant milestone in an enlisted member's Air Force career. Noncommissioned officers who reach this plateau have demonstrated that they possess the capability of taking on increased responsibilities and duties.

When a master sergeant climbs the progression ladder to manager, it

is important to properly recognize and induct that person into the prestigious group known as the Top-3.

There are no formally established guidelines for inducting a member into this age-old fraternity. At Laughlin, we conduct this ceremony on a yearly basis, usually the last Saturday in July. Planning for this event, however, starts the moment the last ceremony is completed. The new promotees are challenged to head up the committee to plan the next year's ceremony.

Many people attend the ceremony. The wing commander and

his spouse are usually there, along with the command chief master sergeant. A chief master sergeant is brought in to be the guest speaker.

There is also a master of ceremonies, a sergeant-at-arms and a sergeant major who reads sections from the script in order to ensure the sequence of the agenda is strictly followed. Other vital players include the base honor guard, candle holders from each enlisted rank, the communications squadron, the SNCO Induction Committee, the Military Affairs

See 'Induction,' page 3



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***"Excellence –
not our goal,
but our
standard."***

– 47th FTW motto

Nature trail: a walk to remember

By Airman Timothy J. Stein

Staff writer

Deciding it was time to get back in touch with nature, I recently spent an hour exploring the nature trail on base.

I loaded up supplies – basically my camera for a picture to go along with the story, and my cell phone in case I got lost – and headed to the nature trail which is just beyond the paintball field.

While walking the trail, I quickly forgot I was still on a military installation. Trees, cactus and wild flowers grew everywhere. Just seeing grass growing longer than the military regulation of an inch-and-a-half made me appreciate the trail more than I thought I would.

Someone told me the trail looks even better after a heavy rainfall; the water turns the area into a large wetland, which really brings out the wildlife. Although the whole area was dry on this hot June day, there were numerous birds and rabbits scurrying about. At one point, when walking next to a large field, I even scared up three deer. Unfortunately, they ran away faster than I could raise my camera and snap a picture.

I circled back, intending to get into position to get a photo of the three of them. While backtracking through the trail I wondered why there weren't more people out there. The trail makes a wonderful place to walk or run. There are gazebos built throughout that make great places to watch wildlife or have a picnic, and it lends itself as a great place to lose yourself in nature.

Lost in contemplation, I looked up to find the elusive deer, grazing about 100 yards ahead



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

A path circles through the wilderness on the nature trail, which is located just past the paintball field. Numerous plants and animals make the wilderness adjacent to the trail their home.

of me, just to the left of the trail. Perhaps I might still get my picture of them.

Maneuvering quietly, I moved into position to get the photo, as I waited for the deer to walk out from behind some brush. It was a tense moment that seemed to last forever.

Suddenly my cell rang and an airplane flew overhead, causing the startled deer to scamper away.

The nature trail sits right next to the paintball field where people play war, and right down the road from the base proper where we plan and train for war everyday. Now, I take pride in being a member of the Air Force, and I'm proud to be a defender of this great country. But, getting away from all of that for a bit, to lose yourself in the beauty of nature, is well worth the walk, even if only for an hour.

'Induction,' from page 2

Association and other support agencies.

The ceremony, which consists of dinner and the oath administered to the promotees, lasts for about four hours. The promotees receive certificates, a biography of themselves that is encased in a glass frame with their photo and a Top-3 coin. These items are presented as a gesture to preserve the moment and to recognize their accomplishments. Most importantly, it makes them aware of their new obligations and paints a path of

new challenges they will face in the future.

The dress for this occasion is semiformal uniform that includes a white shirt with tie for males and a tab and skirt for females. Officers must wear the mess dress uniform. Head cover in not appropriate while in either uniform. Nonmilitary people attending this event are required to wear a suit for males or a dress for females.

Every year the committee has the option to change or add to the way the ceremony is conducted and to decide what items will be presented to promotees.

Last year, the committee, of which I was chairman, decided to add a hall of chevrons from airman to chief master sergeant on the pillars in Club XL. This enhanced the corridor that the inductees passed through, plus added a personal touch for the enlisted ranks.

The SNCO Induction Ceremony reminds us how important it is to recognize and honor those who have sacrificed so much for our country's freedom.

Remember, no one comes close to taking care of their people like Team XL.

Actionline

298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



Rick Rosborg

Col. Rick Rosborg
47th FTW Commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Airmanship

Intended to help all airmen articulate the Air Force's vision of aerospace power

What is flexibility?

Flexibility is the ability to adapt to new or different environments or situations. Aerospace forces can quickly adapt to changing environments, requirements or circumstances.

Recycle this newspaper.

Changes of command set

Col. John Betts, 47th Support Group Commander, will relinquish command to Col. Vic Hnatiuk at 9 a.m. today in the Fiesta Center.

Lt. Col. Michelle Miller Peck, 47th Contracting Squadron Commander, will relinquish command to Maj. Michael Claffey during a change of command ceremony at 9 a.m. July 1 in the Club XL ballroom.

Heartlink meeting set

A Heartlink meeting is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Family Support Center. The Heartlink program is an interactive workshop to help ease new spouses into the Air Force way of life. Childcare expenses will be reimbursed.

For more information, call Sabrina Pena at 298-5899.

Teaching careers

A Texas Troops to Teachers Program seminar will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. June 21 in the Family Support Center conference room.

Active-duty military members, spouses, veterans and civilian employees are welcome to attend.

For more information, or if you would like to attend, call 298-5620 by the close of business Wednesday.

Newsline

Thrift Shop needs manager

The Thrift Shop is in need of a manager. If you have Wednesdays and Fridays free, stop by the base Thrift Shop to apply.

Volunteers are also needed this summer. Anyone who can commit as little as one hour per week is welcome. Drop-in help is also appreciated. Any childcare expenses due to volunteering will be reimbursed.

If interested, come by the Thrift Shop Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or call Amy King at 298-3731.

Case lot sale scheduled

The Laughlin commissary will hold a Midwest Region Director's case lot sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 21 and 22.

For more information, call the commissary at 298-5821.

Applying for federal jobs

An informative seminar teaching the basics of how to apply for a federal job will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. June 25 in the Family Support Center

conference room.

R.S.V.P. to 298-5620 by June 21.

Memorial fund set up

A memorial fund has been set up in honor of 2nd Lt. Scott Butler who died in a motorcycle accident April 25. Those wishing to donate should specify on the check memo line that the money is intended for the Butler Memorial.

People can donate to one of two funds.

They are:

University of Oklahoma Foundation

Attn: Air Force ROTC

171 Felger St.

Craddock Hall

Norman, Okla., 73019

or

Oklahoma School for Science and Mathematics

1141 N. Lincoln Blvd.

Oklahoma City, Okla., 73104

Diabetes class scheduled

A Diabetes Wellness Class is scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon June 27 in the clinic training room. Information will be provided on what diabetes is, treatments for diabetes, the "diabetic" diet, exercise and other management strategies.

For more information, call the Health and Wellness Center at 298-6464.

'Hero,' from page 1

involved an eight-month-old infant who was choking on a sunflower seed. Sweet was at the firehouse May 24 when he heard the call over the box from Val Verde reserve deputy sheriff Art Garcia. Garcia's infant daughter, Samantha, was choking on some object. Garcia was calling out on his radio for an ambulance to meet him on the way, as he was en route to the hospital.

The ambulance was already out on another call and would take longer to get to Garcia than he would, said Sweet.

"I jumped in the truck with a couple of other guys," said Sweet. "We told them we would intercede because we were halfway between the medic and the baby."

Sweet said it was very important to reach the baby as soon as possible because going without air for four minutes can cause brain damage and go-

ing without oxygen for six minutes means death.

They met Garcia near Duck Pond. Sweet said as soon as they got there the training kicked in, and he bolted out of the truck toward the mother with the small baby.

"I really don't remember what [happened next]," said Sweet. "Your training kicks in, and you do what you were trained to do. I always try to teach people I work with that whatever you do in practice is what you are going to do in a life situation. People told me afterward that I was out of the truck before it was stopped, yelling "where's the baby?"

Sweet was given the baby, and he quickly assessed her condition.

"The baby was limp and blue with no life signs at all," he said.

After assessing the situation, Sweet gave the baby four back blows and four chest thrusts, a CPR technique used on choking infants. This dis-

lodged the sunflower seed from the baby's throat, allowing her to breathe again.

"It was unbelievable," said Garcia. "He was a hero. She hadn't been breathing for three minutes."

Sweet is quick to point out that both incidents took a team effort to achieve the desired goal.

"It wasn't just me out there," he said. "There were many dedicated professionals doing their jobs. I could not have done what I did without them."

It is this attitude which makes Sweet such a valuable member of any fire department, said Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Raymond, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron deputy fire chief.

"He is a servant," he said. "His whole life [for] the past 27 years has been devoted to the fire service and the community no matter if it is Texas, Alaska or deployed. He emulates the core values in his conduct and his service."

'Parade,' from page 1

chairperson. "It's time for people to break free from the mindset that these observances and holidays are

only for a certain group of people. Freedom is something we all enjoy and should all celebrate."

Though Juneteenth originated in Texas, the celebration has spread to

several other states and is also recognized at various military bases overseas.

"Juneteenth is about freedom and diversity," said Jordan. "That makes

it applicable to everyone. Freedom and diversity are the strength of our nation."

For details on the Juneteenth celebration, call Jordan at 298-5914.

Thinking about getting out? Think again!
Call the career assistance adviser at 298-5456 for guidance.

2002 savings bond campaign underway

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER - Unit savings bond program officers are available through June 30 to answer questions and help military and civilian members sign up during the 2002 Savings Bond Campaign.

“It’s an excellent, easy opportunity for people to start a safe savings plan while helping boost our nation’s economy,” said John Lowrance, the Air Force’s savings bond campaign coordinator. “It’s also a great time for those who are already contributing to look at increasing their allotments.”

To make purchasing bonds even easier, people can get them through the Payroll Deduction Plan.

“You can pay yourself first and never even see the money because it comes directly out of your check,” said Lowrance.

Both the traditional Series EE U.S. Savings Bonds and the inflation-based Series I U.S. Savings Bonds are available and hold 3.96 percent and 2.57 percent interest rates respectively as set May 1 by the Treasury Department. The Treasury Department recalculates this rate twice a year – normally in May and November.

For additional information on the I and EE Bonds, redemption values and yields, visit the Treasury Department Web page at www.savingsbonds.gov or the U.S. Air Force’s 2002 Savings Bond Campaign Web page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/Programs/SavingsBonds/SAVINGSBND.htm.

M*A*S*H Bash scheduled

Compiled from staff reports

Food and fun will be available for all Laughlin people and their families at the M*A*S*H Bash at 5 p.m. June 21 at the base picnic grounds.

The 47th Medical Group will host the event. Squadrons will compete for the

“Muddy Boot” award. Squadrons interested in forming a team should call 298-6464.

The competition will include a costume contest for any of the Hawkeyes, Klingers or Hot Lips out there.

This M*A*S*H Bash will serve as a fundraiser for

base organizations. Organizations interested in having a booth at this year’s event should call Maj. Patricia Jones or Airman Shari Loving at 298-6464.

For more information on the M*A*S*H Bash, call Maj. Nina Watson at 298-6464 or Capt. Jolene Norris at 298-6453.

June filled with important Stop-Loss, promotion dates

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER – Several new or delayed Air Force-wide personnel actions this month affecting thousands of people have officials here encouraging airmen and their supervisors to note the following updated release dates and deadlines.

■ Officer promotions – The Majors promotion list, announcing the combined results of the Feb. 19 central selection board and the May 6 special selection board, is now scheduled for release June 20.

■ Officer intermediate service school – Announcement of in-residence intermediate service school candidacy for new major-selects is scheduled for June 27.

■ Enlisted promotions – The promotion lists for the service’s newest technical and master sergeants will be released June 27 (June 28 for locations across the international date line).

■ Stop Loss – For members whose retirement or separation date was cancelled or suspended by Stop Loss, the following deadlines apply: Anyone who intends to separate or start terminal leave in July must turn in a letter of intent to the local military personnel flight by June 24. Anyone who plans to separate or start terminal leave anytime after Aug. 1 must turn in a letter of intent by Saturday.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Jaime Rivas

Gaining altitude education

Airman 1st Class Chris Morlandt, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron aerospace physiologist, teaches Civil Air Patrol cadets from all over the country about the effects of altitude inside the hypobaric (altitude) chamber during a CAP visit Tuesday to aerospace physiology. Twenty-four CAP cadets toured various base agencies and shadowed student pilots to learn more about Laughlin’s mission. Those interested in joining the CAP, either as a cadet or senior member, should contact Ed Billman at (210) 566-6746 or send an e-mail to ebillman@satx.rr.com.

New edition of Air Force TV News airs on access channel

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS – A new edition of Air Force Television News is now airing on the commander's access channel, cable channel 34, Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Staff Sgt. Pachari Lutke visited a remote area of north Florida where airmen were training for this newest potential battlefield. Meanwhile, Master Sgt. Ron Przysucha and Army Sgt. Kris Grogan were in the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan reporting on a more conventional kind of support the Air Force is giving to those fighting the war on terrorism in neighboring Afghanistan.

Retiring Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch talked to Master Sgt. Chris Beckwith about the challenges facing Finch's successor, Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Murray.

Staff Sgt. Marty Rush was on hand for the graduation of this year's senior class at the Air Force Academy and profiled one family who for generations has made the military a way of life. Staff Sgt. Joe Wallace went to the campus of Bowling Green University in Ohio to show how some students there are using ROTC as a path to becoming Air Force officers. Airman 1st Class Lee Hoover profiled a senior at Incirlik Air Force Base, Turkey, and the challenges she faced attending her senior prom.

An appearance from the commander of Air Force Materiel Command, Gen. Lester Lyles, highlighted the Air Force presence at Memorial Day auto racing in Indianapolis; North Carolina's Air Force racing connection was covered by Tech. Sgt. Paul Firman and Staff Sgt. Bill Scherer.

Air Force Television News is a biweekly production of Air Force News Service. It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide, and is seen on more than 700 cable television outlets nationwide. It is also available on the Internet at www.af.mil in a new format that allows viewers to access individual stories.

Viewers can comment on the program by sending e-mail to aftvnews@afnews.af.mil.

Interested in the Air Force?
Call Del Rio's Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.

**If you know of or suspect Fraud, Waste and Abuse,
call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.**

AETC transfers training courses

Under a plan to consolidate similar training functions, Gen. Don Cook, Air Education and Training Command Commander, announced the realignment of several technical training courses at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.; and Lackland and Sheppard Air Force bases in Texas.

He also announced the transfer of loadmaster training to Altus Air Force Base, Okla., and Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

Known as the Centers of Excellence in Technical Training, the plan redistributes training courses and associated resources at AETC bases to align the technical expertise associated with a training discipline at one location. This change will allow students, instructors and training equipment used for similar courses to be concentrated at a single training center. The changes bring undergraduate enlisted aircrew training to Lackland. Sheppard becomes the center for all avionics maintenance training. Keesler becomes the training center for electronic principles, education and training, and finance. Altus and Little Rock gain basic loadmaster training for their aircraft.

Cook said the reason for the change is "to bring our training centers into a better functional alignment, save money by not duplicating similar training processes at several locations and to make best use of our experienced instructor pool."

The changes are scheduled to begin this summer and be completed by late 2003 to ensure a smooth transition at all affected locations.

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

Officials separate promotion, PME candidacy notification

By Tech. Sgt. Jurita G. Barber

Air Force Print News

Air Force personnel officials announced a change Monday that will separate the announcements for promotion selection and school candidacy for officers.

Previously, promotion results and professional military education candidacy were announced together for Air Force major- and lieutenant colonel-selects. Now, starting with the release of the 2002 major promotion board results in June, PME candidacy will be announced separately, one to two weeks after the promotion release, said Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, chief of Air Force promotion, evaluation and separation policy at the Pentagon.

“While the designation process for schools will continue to be made by the promotion boards, the change in how the results are announced is meant to highlight the achievement of being promoted,” Middleton said.

Separating the announcement of in-residence PME candidacy from a promotion board’s results will allow everyone to focus appropriately on the promotion announcement when it is made, said Dr. James G. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force.

“We don’t want to take the shine off of a new rank for those people who are not also designated school candidates,” Roche said. “They can still compete at the board for in-residence slots, and also take school by correspondence or seminar.”

Interested in the Air Force? *Call Del Rio’s Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.*

Young author wins state writing contest

By Staff Sgt. Olenda M. Kleffner

*Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.,
314th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

The Arkansas Educational Television Network recently announced a 9-year-old Air Force family member as the winner of the 2002 Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest.

Third grader Elisabeth Jasina, daughter of Peggy and Lt. Col. James Jasina, won the contest for her book called "The Trip to Molly."

After getting ideas for her book from looking at different family photos, Elisabeth decided to do her book about traveling to China, and the process she and her family went through to adopt her little sister, Molly, from China.

Elisabeth wrote about the paperwork and waiting involved with the adoption, the long plane ride, visiting Beijing, the capital city of China and the Forbidden City, climbing the Great Wall of China and meeting her new baby sister for the first time.

"I wanted to write about Molly because she's someone I love, and I know a lot about her because she's my sister," said Elisabeth.

Elisabeth's father said she put in a lot of work and dedicated many hours to write this beautiful story about the process of bringing Molly home.

In one month, she spent about 100 hours writing the story and drawing the illustrations for her book, her parents said.

Elisabeth's older sister, Emily, said she didn't think her sister would really finish the book, but after putting in a lot of time and work, it was done.

The AETN contest, which ran Jan. 24 to March 31, received more than 500 entries.

The contest was for children in kindergarten through third grade. Their stories could be fact, fiction or poetry. They were judged on originality, creative expression, storytelling and integration of copy and illustrations.

The judges, made up of educators and public librarians, selected the winners and entered all first-place winners in the national Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest.

Elisabeth's mother said it was a beautiful story.

"I told her that regardless of whether she won or not, it was still a winner because it's a wonderful memento she created for her sister," said Elisabeth's mother.

The first-place winners in each state received a book bag, books, a Reading Rainbow VHS tape, a framed certificate of recognition and a 25" Sanyo Television for their school.

Since Elisabeth is home-schooled, she donated her television to St. Edwards Catholic School in Little Rock.

National winners receive a computer and printer, video-cassette recorder and a Reading Rainbow library set, featuring 10 video and book titles. A similar Reading Rainbow set is awarded to each winner's local school and public library.

Don't be fooled by free vacation scams



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Airman 1st Class Nathaniel Bolen, 47th Flying Training Wing, reviews travel and cruise brochures and magazines.

By Capt. Tom Biediger

*47th Flying Training Wing
deputy staff judge advocate*

The phone rings during supper, and the excited voice on the other end of the phone says "Congratulations! Your family has been specially selected to receive a free luxury

dream vacation!" You remember filling out an entry form weeks ago at the local mall, and now you have won.

Who can resist the chance to set sail on a free cruise or play a round of golf at a luxury resort? The offer sounds tempting to many of us. Both

the Better Business Bureau and the Texas Attorney General, however, caution consumers that free vacation giveaways are likely scams that can end up costing unwitting consumers hundreds or thousands of dollars.

The vacation scams vary. Often the scam begins with a phone call like that described earlier. Sometimes the offer comes by mail or by fax. Some promise lodging in a hotel or timeshare for a certain number of days if the "winner" attends an informational session for the timeshare resort. The informational session is actually a high-pressure sales pitch given by a forceful professional. Naïve consumers are coerced into years of payments for a timeshare they did not want, and will not use.

Other scams require the "winner" to pay a nonrefundable "service fee" or require that winners join a "vacation club." Most people who join a fraudulently operated travel club never receive anything. The few that do can expect to be put up in substandard accommodations. In one case, a scam agency offered free cruises to select winners. Vacationers who sought to take advantage of the "gift" found more than \$500 in "service fees" charged to

their credit cards. The cruise turned out to be little more than a ferry ride.

To protect yourself against a vacation scam, consider the following:

- Be wary of unsolicited calls, letters or faxes informing you that you have "won" a free vacation. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- Don't fall for high-pressure sales tactics. Watch out for operators who say they need you to commit immediately. A legitimate company will not expect you to make a snap decision. Take the time to investigate the company with the Better Business Bureau or the State Attorney General's Office.

- Never, ever give out your credit card number over the phone unless you have confidence in who you are dealing with. Sometimes scammers say they need your card number for "verification" purposes. Don't believe them.

- Remember, if in doubt, say "No." There is no risk if you simply hang up the phone.

For more information, or if you have questions regarding a vacation offer you have received, come to the legal office between 3 and 4 p.m. Tuesdays or from 8 to 9 a.m. Thursdays for legal assistance.



**The Air Force
rewards
good ideas with
money.**

**Check out the
IDEA
Program data
system at
[https://
ideas.satx.disa.mil](https://ideas.satx.disa.mil),
or call 298-5236.**

Chapel Schedule



Catholic

Saturday 5 p.m., Mass
Sunday ● 9:30 a.m., Mass
 ● 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall
Thursday 6 p.m., Choir
Tuesday-Friday ● 12:05 p.m., Mass
 ● 12:05 p.m. and 7 p.m., Holy Days of Obligation
Reconciliation Before Sunday Mass, Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. and by appointment
Religious Education/Bible Study 11 a.m. and noon Sunday

Jewish Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim Call Dr. Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

Friday 7 p.m., Unity in Community Services

Protestant

Sunday 11 a.m., General worship
Wednesday ● 12:30-2:15 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m., Women's Bible Study at chapel
 ● 6 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

The *XLer*



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

Staff Sgt. Oscar Vega

47th Flying Training Wing command section information manager NCOIC

Hometown: San Antonio

Family: Wife, Michelle; son, Oscar Jr., 10; daughter, Kathryn, 7; son, Vincent, 1 month.

Time at Laughlin: 2 years

Time in service: 10 1/2 years

Greatest accomplishment:

Marrying my wife

Hobbies: Building things without losing

screwdrivers in the wall.

Bad habit: Drinking too much Pepsi

Favorite film: Pulp Fiction

Favorite musician: Van Halen, not Van Hagar.

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My grandfather on my mother's side. He passed away before I was born.

In your mind, what does the American flag stand for?



2nd Lt. Jaime Rivas
47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron aerospace physiologist

"The American way of life – baseball and apple pie."



Airman 1st Class Wesley Ransom
47th Contracting Squadron

"The flag simply symbolizes freedom and the hardship required to gain and keep it."



Airman 1st Class Paxton Hicks
47th ADS aerospace physiology apprentice

"It symbolizes all the people who have gone before us to pave the way for freedom."

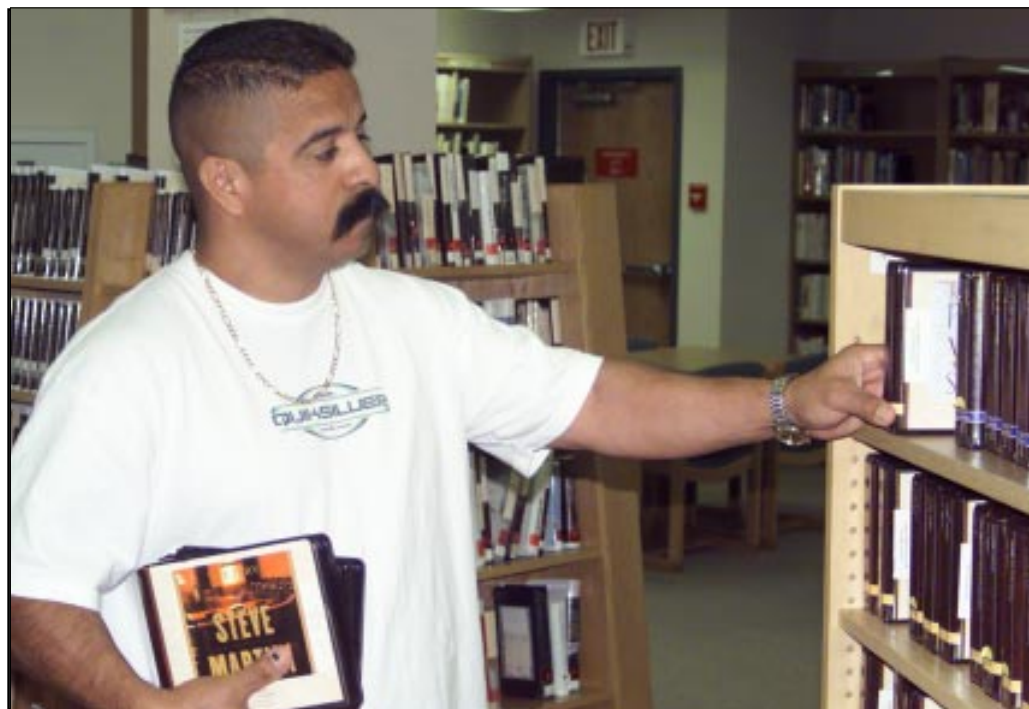


Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Books without reading

Mario Villarreal, Book Mark Library technician, shelves one of the 82 new compact-disc audiobooks now at the library. The base library also has a stock of 42 audiobooks on tape, which are replenished with new titles every three months. For more information on titles in stock, call 298-5119.

Friday, the Border Eagle.
Wednesday, this
newspaper:
www.af.mil/newspaper

Pope names chaplain a monsignor

By Master Sgt.

Bob Haskell

Air Force Print News

Pope John Paul II has recognized an Air National Guard chaplain by giving him the title of monsignor.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William Charbonneau, a Catholic priest for nearly 30 years, was notified by the Archdiocese of Military Services of the honor.

"I never saw it coming. I was totally blown away," said Charbonneau, deputy chief of the Air Guard's chaplain services division at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va. "I have always felt it is important to do your best by consistently maintaining the ministry and not look for recognition."

Charbonneau is the first Air National Guard chaplain at the bureau to be named a monsignor.

The recognition is signifi-

cant, other priests said, and it gives him a higher standing in the Catholic clergy's pecking order.

"Monsignor in the spiritual order corresponds to the word officer in the military," states The Catholic Encyclopedia about the title.

The lifetime appointment, which is effective immediately, elevates the chaplain above the rank and file clergy and goes with the title "Chaplain to His Holiness," Charbonneau said. It will not, however, alter his military duties nor does it mean he will be summoned to Rome.

Charbonneau said he will continue to guide and support the 56 Catholic chaplains who minister to Air National Guard units across the country and to counsel all who seek him out. He will also continue his efforts of the past five years to entice Ro-

man Catholic priests to become Air National Guard chaplains, he said.

Charbonneau said his main concern, however, remains with the Air National Guard people who must come to terms with the idea of doing harm to others when they are sent to war, and with the unit chaplains who must help those men and women resolve their moral conflicts.

"The satisfaction I get from being a military chaplain is to prepare people to go to war if our country needs them and to help other chaplains be ready to go to war with their units," he said. "It doesn't get any more rewarding than to be there with them."

"We all know that this is the military duty we signed up to do for our country, even if we hoped and prayed as Christians that it would never happen," he said.



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

Rounding third

Lupe Rodriguez (right) approaches third base as short stop James Zimmer (left) and third baseman Matt Haven watch on. Rodriguez would eventually score, but his team, LSI, would lose to CCS 30-21.

Softball standings

American League

OSS 1	2-1
87th FTS	2-2
86th FTS	1-2
LCSAM 1	1-2
84/85 FTS	1-3
Trendwestern	0-1

National League

CES	3-0
Med Group	3-0
SFS	3-2
LSI	2-1
OSS 2	2-2
CCS	1-2
LCSAM 2	0-3

Scores for Wednesday

CCS 30 - LSI 21
Med Group 18 - SFS 9
86th 22 - LCSAM2 5



Sportslines

Volleyball tournament

The Sandmasters Volleyball Tournament will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the FamCamp located next to the R.V. park. The tournament is a four-person tournament.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Timothy Coffey at 298-5251.

Please recycle this newspaper.

**Avoid heat
stress. Stay
cool.**

**Drink plenty of
water.**

**Sports –
Play it safe!**